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M. Aubin, in common with many writers of various nationalities, has overlooked the fact that wherever England goes, be it to Egypt or to India, the Frenchman or any other foreigner has just as free access as the Englishman; that the foreigner may trade there with his ships; that he may carry thither his merchandise, and that in all respects he will be treated exactly as though he were a British subject. The author would do well to reflect that if France and other protectionist countries did not attempt to strangle fair commercial competition, by means of oppressive tariff regulations, England would not be placed under the necessity of holding those vast territories in which she insists on equal treatment for the goods of all nations, and in none of which she makes any attempt to shut out the merchandise of foreigners.

ALLEYNE IRELAND.

Boston, Mass.

The Economic Aspects of the Liquor Problem. By JOHN KOREN.

An investigation made for the Committee of Fifty under the direction of Henry W. Farnam, secretary of the economic sub-committee. Pp. 327. Price, \$1.50. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1899.

This work is an interesting attempt to trace the connection between intemperance, poverty and crime. The effort constitutes the body of the book. Other chapters on intemperance in relation to the negro and the Indian, and on the social uses of the saloon, are mainly descriptive, and while suggestive, are subordinate in interest to the main inquiry.

The inquiry as formulated above is the oft-repeated question, How far does intemperance cause poverty and crime? Current answers range all the way from sweeping assertions that without drink crime and pauperism would almost cease to exist, to equally unsatisfactory questioning whether intemperance causes misery or misery intemperance. The present investigators have approached the subject with no delusion as to the ease with which the question can be answered. They have wisely refrained from summarizing the opinions of their predecessors, which are too often colored by personal bias or vitiated by false methods. They recognize clearly, as many have failed to do, that the co-existence of drinking habits and pauperism or crime is only presumptive evidence of causal connection and not of necessity conclusive proof. Hence they have sought new materials gained as nearly as possible by similar methods, attempting by carefully prepared instructions, and

by much correspondence and verification to eliminate personal bias and to secure a uniform comprehension of the motives and methods of the inquiry. Their investigators have been chosen among charity workers and institution officers who, as a rule, I believe to be singularly free from prejudice and preconceived notions. By requiring information whether the intemperance assigned as the cause of distress or crime was personal, or that of other persons, they have exacted a minute investigation of all cases concerned, which is a further safeguard of accuracy.

The problem of poverty and pauperism is less subtle than that of crime, and methods of investigation could be simpler and more direct. Two classes of persons came under review, the applicants for relief to charity organization societies, and the inmates of almshouses, representing two degrees of pauperization. The inquiry in each case was the same, whether the condition could be directly traced to intemperance of the person concerned, or indirectly to intemperance through the habits of others upon whom the person was dependent. The applicants for relief whose cases were investigated comprised 29,923 persons, of whom about 18 per cent owed their condition to intemperance directly, and 9 per cent indirectly. As the two cases oftentimes overlapped, the whole proportion due in any way to intemperance was 25 per cent. Further tabulation showed more personal intemperance cases among males and more indirect intemperance cases among females. It also showed less intemperance among negroes than whites, less among foreign born than native born, but considerably more among native born of foreign parents, than among those of native parentage. Similar results appeared in the investigation of almshouse inmates, where 37 per cent of the cases were traced to liquor.

The problem of crime offered greater difficulties. To avoid a tendency to ascribe an undue causal importance to drinking habits, two additional causes of crime, defective environment and lack of industrial training, were to be reported upon at the same time. Moreover, the inquiry was confined to serious offenders in male prisons and adult reformatories. This cut out in a large measure those offenders against the law which swarm in county jails and workhouses, whose offences do not involve so great a degree of moral turpitude. Its tendency would be, as any one familiar with our prison population must be aware, to minimize the extent to which intemperance alone could justly be deemed the determining cause in crime. The inquiry involved 13,402 prisoners, among whom the crime was more or less traceable to drink in nearly 50 per cent of the cases. As a single cause it appeared in 31 per cent of the cases, in the others it was combined with or subsidiary to the other causes mentioned.

Space does not permit an exposition of the results of the inquiry in regard to dependent children, nor a summary of the descriptive chapters which comprise the remainder of the work.

To many the whole work will not seem to justify its title. The subject is larger than the contents of the book would indicate. But, in the opinion of the committee, the other economic aspects of the liquor question have been fully treated elsewhere. I venture to differ with this opinion, and believe that the book will be a disappointment to those who reasonably expected a fuller treatment of the subject. The activity of the police in the direct suppression of drunkenness, and the cost of this to the public, is a matter which in my judgment is of the utmost importance in the consideration of the liquor traffic in its economic aspects. One cannot be captious of such an omission in any particular book, but it seems regrettable that the scheme of study of the Committee of Fifty does not appear to include many other aspects of the liquor question which might be described as economic. There are several luminous suggestions in the concluding part of Professor Farnam's introduction which we should have been glad to see the subject of special inquiry.

As far as the work goes it is to be commended to the careful consideration of all. Its dispassionate objective tone cannot but appeal to the searcher after truth. It furnishes the best estimate which has been made of the influence of intemperance in causing pauperism and crime. Probably its best recommendation will be that it will not satisfy extremists of either type.

ROLAND P. FALKNER.

Friendly Visiting Among the Poor. A Handbook for Charity Workers by MARY E. RICHMOND, General Secretary of the Charity Organization Society of Baltimore. Pp. 225. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

This is a book intended for beginners who desire seriously to study the poor with a view to helping to improve their condition. It is written by one who has had experience both in caring for families in need and in training new workers; it is therefore full of practical suggestion. Familiar principles are put tersely and are illustrated by brief histories of families from several cities, including Boston, New York, Buffalo, Cincinnati and others east and west. Those who are not beginners will find it full of help.

The introduction gives a brief historical sketch of the development of charitable effort, with a summary of the causes of distress and the attitude requisite on the part of the visitor to remove these causes. A